



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

DANISH WEST INDIES.

Quarantine against Trinidad on account of smallpox.

The minister at Copenhagen reports, April 20, through the Department of State, as follows:

The government of the Danish West Indies has declared a quarantine of fifteen days against vessels arriving from Trinidad, on account of the appearance of smallpox in that island.

FRANCE.

Destruction of rats in the port of Marseille.

Consul-General Skinner reports, April 22, as follows:

Dr. R. Jacques, one of the physicians of the public health department of Marseille, has published a pamphlet embodying the results of his labors and studies to prevent the city of Marseille from becoming a plague-infected port. Although the city is constantly exposed, by reason of its geographical position and the frequency of its steamship communications with the plague-ridden ports of the Levant, India, and China, the public health department has every reason to congratulate itself upon the success which has thus far attended its labors. The work is under the general direction of Dr. Catelan, chief of the service, who assigned Dr. Jacques to his immediate task. In August, 1900, the first plague-infected ship, the *Niger*, arrived at the quarantine station of Frioul, upon which occasion Dr. Catelan said:

It is probable that the epidemic originated in the migration of rats in one of the ports of call in Egypt or Syria, where cases of pest had been noted during the month preceding. In 1899 the *Equateur* had one case of plague on board while in the port of Beirut, and dead rats had been found in great number upon this steamer. The *Equateur* and the *Niger*, like all the steamers of the same company, touch the same ports in the Levant, anchor at the same wharves, and the rats passing back and forth assuredly constitute the greatest danger of dissemination of the plague. However well the rats may be destroyed upon a given steamer, a certain number escape and return, and the circulation between the steamer and the land is incessant. No absolutely radical method has yet been found to prevent this.

In consequence of the danger arising from this source, official instructions were prepared, prescribing careful surveillance during the discharge of cargoes from suspected steamers and measures of prevention against the exodus of rats from the same. In 1901 a special service was organized in Marseille, and a corps of 10 persons, directed by Dr. Jacques, was formed for the exclusive purpose of carrying out these instructions. Dr. Jacques says:

The result has been as follows: From October, 1901, to January, 1902, 133 suspected steamers were inspected, of which 15 were noted as having infected rats on board. Of the 15, 9 contained rats seriously infected, and on 6 of them were rats less seriously attacked. From January to April, of 104 steamers inspected, 2 only contained rats plainly infected, and on 3 were animals suffering more mildly. From April to July 114 steamers were examined, 1 of which was found to contain infected rats, a discovery which was followed shortly thereafter by the breaking out of 2 cases among the men on board. From July to the end of September 111 steamers were inspected, on board 10 of which were infected rats, and on another rats less markedly so. From October to the end of December, 1902, 93 steamers were inspected, and a very light degree of infection was found among the rats on board 2 of them, and on 1 rats profoundly infected. The observations throughout the year confirm the first idea of Dr. Catalan that epidemics on board ship among crew and passengers arise from infection resulting from the presence of rats, an infection dating back a long time, perhaps, and communicated by contact.